

# Kentucky Family Matters

News & Information About Kentucky Family Court

Spring 2004



## Family Court Profiles: Updates in Personnel

### Union/Webster/Crittenden Family Court

By Joan Bosaw, Administrator  
*Union/Webster/Crittenden Family Court*

**Judge William E. Mitchell** served as domestic relations commissioner for the 5th Judicial District for 10 years before being appointed Family Court judge for Union, Webster and Crittenden counties in January 2003.

**Joan Bosaw**, Family Court administrator, worked for Judge Mitchell for 15 years in his private law practice.

**Betty Cowan**, judicial secretary, worked for Judge Mitchell for seven years prior to coming to Family Court. **Laura Peak, J.D.**, is the Family Court law clerk and a graduate of Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She practiced domestic relations law in Henderson, Ky.

**Sally Beaven**, case specialist, previously worked as a court reporter for Judge Will Tom Wathen and for Union County Attorney Bruce W. Moore.



*The Union/Webster/Crittenden Family Court staff includes, left to right, Laura Peak, law clerk; Joan Bosaw, court administrator; Betty Cowan, secretary; Sally Beaven, case specialist; and Judge William E. Mitchell.*

### Oldham/Henry/Trimble Family Court

By Claudia Brewer, Administrator  
*Oldham/Henry/Trimble Family Court*

We are pleased to announce that **Jodi Johnson**, a deputy clerk for the Office of Circuit Court Clerk in Oldham County, will be serving as secretary for Judge Karen Conrad.

Jodi is filling the position of Donna King, who left Family Court in March to move to Horse Cave, Ky., with her husband and children.

### Franklin Family Court

By Donna Hamblen, Administrator  
*Franklin Family Court*

Franklin County Family Court has experienced staff changes in recent months. Judge Reed Rhorer would like to officially welcome **Nicole Sotiriou** and **Donna Hamblen** to the staff.

Nicole Sotiriou began serving as law clerk last fall. She is a 2003

graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law, where she was executive editor of the *Journal for Natural Resources and Environmental Law*. She earned her bachelor's degree in human services at Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass. Nicole is a native of Pittsfield, Mass., and currently resides in Lexington.

Donna Hamblen accepted the position as court administrator in November 2003. She is a native of Nashville, Tenn., and holds an associate degree in business from Middle Tennessee State University. Donna currently resides in Shelbyville with her husband, Russ, and their son, Nicklaus. Donna previously served as a probation officer with Kentucky Alternative Programs in Frankfort.

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*Laura Peak demonstrates her hidden talent at a benefit donkey basketball game in Crittenden County. She served on the attorneys' team.*



## From the Desk of the Family Court Manager

By Carla Kreitman, J.D.  
Department of Family Court

The Department of Family Court is proud to present this issue of *Family Matters* to share the latest news about Family Court and provide an update on family law matters of interest. In addition to the regular site update feature, this issue explores the controversial topic of Parent Alienation Syndrome, a thoughtful piece written by our own Kelly Stephens, Family Court specialist. Thanks to all of the newsletter contributors for supporting our goal of providing high-quality information.

**E-Mailing *Family Matters*.** We will soon deliver *Family Matters* to you via e-mail. While we currently post issues of the newsletter on our Web site at [www.kycourts.net](http://www.kycourts.net), we are excited about sending an electronic version of the newsletter directly to you. If you would like to receive *Family Matters* by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to [brendab@mail.aoc.state.ky.us](mailto:brendab@mail.aoc.state.ky.us).

## Kentucky Family Matters

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*Kentucky Family Matters* is published quarterly by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information relevant to Kentucky Family Court. The viewpoints expressed in the articles submitted do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the AOC. The Department of Family Court does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in submitted articles and is not responsible for any errors, omissions or results obtained from use of the information.

**Family Court Jurisdiction.** Jurisdiction of Family Court, a division of Circuit Court, is defined by KRS 23A.100. In response to continuing questions about Family Court jurisdiction and the appeals process from Family Court, the relevant sections of the Kentucky Revised Statutes are below:

(1) As a division of Circuit Court with general jurisdiction pursuant to Section 112(6) of the Constitution of Kentucky, a Family Court division of Circuit Court shall retain jurisdiction in the following cases:

- a. Dissolution of marriage;
- b. Child custody;
- c. Visitation;
- d. Maintenance and support;
- e. Equitable distribution of property in dissolution cases;
- f. Adoption; and
- g. Termination of parental rights.

(2) In addition to general jurisdiction of Circuit Court, a Family Court division of Circuit Court shall have the following additional jurisdiction:

- a. Domestic violence and abuse proceedings under KRS Chapter 403 subsequent to the issuance of an emergency protective order in accord with local protocols under KRS 403.735;
- b. Proceedings under the Uniform Act on Paternity, KRS Chapter 406, and the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, KRS 407.5101 to 407.5902;
- c. Dependency, neglect and abuse proceedings under KRS Chapter 620; and
- d. Juvenile status offenses under KRS Chapter 630, except where proceedings under KRS Chapter 635 or 640 are pending.

(3) Family Court divisions of Circuit Court shall be the primary forum for cases in this section, except that nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the concurrent jurisdiction of District Court. (Repealed, reenact. and amend., Acts 2003, ch. 66 sec. 1, effective June 24, 2003.)

Appeals from Family Court are covered by KRS 22A.020 (1) as follows:

(1) Except as provided in Section 110 of the Constitution, an appeal may be taken as a matter of right to the Court of Appeals from any conviction, final judgment, order, or decree in any case in Circuit Court, including a Family Court division of Circuit Court, unless such conviction, final judgment, order or decree was rendered on an appeal from a court inferior to Circuit Court.

We continue to welcome your input on *Family Matters*.  
Have a good spring!

“Information is that which changes us.”  
- Stafford Beer

## 2004 State Competition

# We the People ... The Citizen and the Constitution

By Rachel Bingham  
Professional Services Supervisor  
Department of Juvenile Services

Franklin County Family Court Judge Reed Rhorer participated at the annual state high school competition for the *We the People ... The Citizen and the Constitution* program. The event took place in February at Holiday Inn Capital Plaza in Frankfort. Ohio County High School of Hartford won the state competition, with Highlands High School of Fort Thomas coming in as runner-up. Ohio County will represent Kentucky at the national competition in Washington, DC., in April.

*We the People ... The Citizen and the Constitution* is a nationally acclaimed

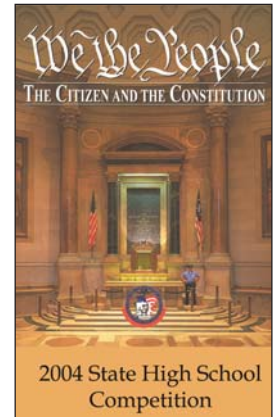
program developed by the Center for Civic Education. It focuses on the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights for upper elementary, middle and high school students.

The *We the People ...* curriculum enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy and helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The program's culminating activity is a simulated congressional hearing where students demonstrate their knowledge as they defend their positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues.

The 2004 competition marks the 10th year the Administrative Office of the Courts has managed the *We the People ...* program. Participation has grown

from several hundred students to more than 30,000 students at hundreds of schools across the state. We attribute much of the program's success to judges such as Judge Rhorer, whose commitment and involvement make this an outstanding civic educational endeavor.



## Divorce education: Helping families survive a difficult time

By Nancy Hulett, BSW  
Family Court Specialist

Divorce education providers across Kentucky are working together to help divorcing families understand the difficulties of divorce. The information is considered so important that education programs for parents and their children are mandated by more than half of the 56 judicial circuits in Kentucky.

In October 2003, the Department of Family Court hosted a Divorce Education Providers Meeting at Natural Bridge State Park. Three committees were formed during this meeting:

**Evaluation of Methods Committee**  
The group will share evaluation tools being used by divorce education programs throughout the state.

**Continuing Education Committee**  
This committee will provide ongoing training opportunities for divorce education providers.

**Clearinghouse Committee**  
This group will create a clearinghouse of the consistent data needed for funding and future legislation.

The Continuing Education Committee is holding a divorce Education Symposium on May 20, 2004, at Holiday Inn Capital Plaza in Frankfort. To register, contact Nancy Hulett at 800-928-2350 or [nancyhulett@mail.aoc.state.ky.us](mailto:nancyhulett@mail.aoc.state.ky.us).

To learn more about Divorce Education programs, visit [www.kycourts.net](http://www.kycourts.net) and click on Circuit Court, Family Court and Court Mandated Divorce Education.



### Upcoming Events Note These Dates!

#### **JUNE is Family Court Month!**

##### **Divorce Education Symposium**

May 20, 2004  
Holiday Inn, Frankfort

##### **Regional Family Court Trainings**

April 8, 2004, Bowling Green  
April 23, 2004, Prestonsburg  
May 3, 2004, Burlington  
June 4, 2004, LaGrange



# Parental Alienation Syndrome: Real or *Imagined*?

By Kelly Stephens, J.D., Family Court Specialist

**The scene: A child caught in the middle of a custody dispute is being interviewed by a court appointed therapist. The following exchange takes place:**

Therapist: I'm very sorry to hear your grandfather died.

Billy: You know, he just didn't die. My father murdered him.

Therapist (incredulously): Your father murdered your grandfather, his own father?

Billy: Yes, I know he did it.

Therapist: I thought your grandfather was in the hospital. I understand he was about 85 years old and that he was dying of old-age diseases.

Billy: Yeah, that's what my father says.

Therapist: What do you say?

Billy: I say my father murdered him in the hospital.

Therapist: How did he do that?

Billy: He sneaked into the hospital, at night, and did it while no one was looking. He did it while the nurses and the doctors were asleep.

Therapist: How do you know that?

Billy: I just know it.

Therapist: Did anyone tell you such a thing?

Billy: No, but I just know it.

Therapist (now turning to the mother, who is witness to this conversation): What do you think about what Billy just said?

Mother: Well, I don't really think that my husband did it, but I wouldn't put it past that son-of-a-b\*#%.<sup>1</sup>

## Symptoms of Parent Alienation Syndrome

Richard Gardner characterized Parent Alienation Syndrome as a collection of the following symptoms:

- A campaign of denigration by both alienating parent and child.
- Weak, frivolous or absurd rationalizations for the deprecation.
- Lack of ambivalence toward the alienated parent.
- Insistence by the alienating parent and/or child that the child is forming denigrating thoughts as a product of the child's own independent thinking.
- Reflexive, often unconditional, support of the loved parent by the child.
- Absence of guilt by the alienating parent and child.
- Child borrows scenarios or opinions of the loved parent.
- Spread of the animosity to family and friends of the alienated parent, including previously beloved grandparents, aunts and uncles.

## Johnston & Kelly's Continuum of Child/Parent Relationships Following Divorce

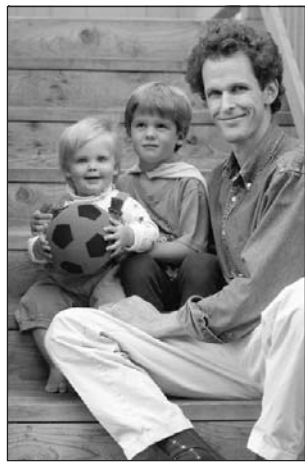
- Positive relationship with both parents
- Affinity with one parent
- Allied child
- Estranged child
- Alienated child

## The Parental Alienation Phenomenon

Dr. Richard Gardner described the above scene in his book *The Parental Alienation Syndrome* to illustrate a phenomenon of the same name.<sup>2</sup> In particular, he defines Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) as a "disorder that arises primarily in the context of child custody disputes. Its primary manifestation is the child's campaign of denigration against a parent, a campaign that has no justification. It results from the combination of the programming (brainwashing) parent's indoctrinations and the

child's own contributions to the vilification of the target parent."<sup>3</sup>

In the above example, Billy has convinced himself that his father is capable of patricide (an unjustified assessment of this particular father, according to Gardner) and



the mother reinforces this unreasonable opinion either through explicit or tacit approval and encouragement.

Since its introduction in the late 1980s, Dr. Gardner's theory has been met with skepticism, opposition, and outright scorn from critics. It has been embraced by father's groups<sup>4</sup> and vilified by the National Organization for Women<sup>5</sup>. Because Gardner also had very controversial ideas about child sexual abuse allegations and his PAS theory is couched in terms that can be very offensive to women (he hypothesizes that 90 percent of parents who alienate their children from the other parent are mothers), much of the core idea behind parental alienation syndrome has been lost in gender, legal and scientific politics.<sup>6</sup>

This article is not intended to take a position on the validity of Gardner's theory or other parental alienation theories, or to encourage its use in courts of law. Rather, the purpose of this overview is to recognize a growing issue of concern to Family Court staff and the families they encounter, and to raise the issue in a manner that cautions against both the wholesale acceptance or rejection of the theories.

Many court personnel, family law attorneys, social workers and guardians *ad litem* have probably witnessed a parent

*Continued on page 5*

## What's the difference between parental alienation and parental alienation syndrome?

- PA focuses on the alienated child – a child who freely and persistently expresses unreasonable negative feelings and beliefs toward a parent that do not fit the child's actual experience with that parent.
- PAS focuses on the bad conduct of the alienating parent.
- PA contends there are multiple, interrelated factors – including the personality, temperament and cognitive capacity of the child, as well as contributing behaviors by the rejected parent – that directly or indirectly affect the child's reaction to separation and divorce.
- PAS almost entirely assumes the innocence of rejected parents as having no role whatsoever in their child's behavior toward them.

## Are parental alienation theories admissible in court?

- No appellate court in Kentucky has addressed the admissibility of parental alienation theories, although the theory has been litigated and rejected in an unpublished opinion.
- The *Daubert v. Dow Pharmaceuticals* is the standard for admissibility of scientific evidence: Expert testimony must be relevant and reliable, and although there is no definitive checklist to follow, peer review and general or widespread acceptance of the theory in the scientific community can be a factor in deciding admissibility.

## The Parental Alienation Phenomenon

*Continued from page 4*

engaging in negative behaviors toward the other parent at some point in their careers. And while there may be a nugget of truth in the parental alienation theories, most professionals run into difficulty when forced to distinguish between so-called “normal” behaviors by parents and children going through divorce or other high-conflict litigation and something that rises to the level of unacceptable conduct by parent and child. Even more difficult is determining the proper role of the courts in intervening in such a delicate matter.

## Development of Other Parental Alienation Theories

Subsequent social scientists, who recognize alienating behaviors but disagree with Gardner's formulation and scientific method, have reformulated the PAS theory into less controversial terms, omitting the focus on blaming an alienating parent. Therefore, it is not uncommon to run across the term “parental alienation” (PA), coined by Johnston and Kelly, which noticeably drops the use of the word “syndrome” and attempts to fashion the theory more as a systematic reaction to a shift in the family structure due to divorce rather than a medical diagnosis of a mental disorder.<sup>7</sup> Children may still be estranged or alienated from a parent (the degree of alienation is charted on a continuum on page 4), but there may be factors at work other than the active programming or brainwashing by the other parent.

## Skepticism of Parental Alienation

While a few courts have recognized parental alienation (either PAS or PA), the vast majority of courts have ruled that the theories have not gained enough respect and support in the community to be an admissible scientific theory.

There are reasons for this skepticism: Gardner's theories (and to a certain extent the later formulations) rely heavily on anecdotal experience, not scientific studies with appropriate statistical controls. The studies and reports have not been thoroughly peer-reviewed; the American

Psychiatric Association does not recognize the phenomenon as a syndrome and it is not listed in the DSM-IV (the directory of accepted mental disorder diagnoses). Gardner self-published his work and was a prominent expert witness-for-hire in custody cases, and he has conducted several profitable workshops for other custody evaluators on PAS. It should be noted that a good deal of the general public and litigants view the custodial evaluation aspect of litigation as a money-making mill based on junk science.<sup>8</sup>

Adding to the skepticism is Gardner's own admission that PAS has been misused to the detriment of both the alleged alienating parent and children.<sup>9</sup> Gardner advocated for active judicial intervention in PAS cases through contempt powers, forced visitation and threats of sanctions. One of his recommendations in cases where severe PAS has been diagnosed is to transfer custody of the child from the alienating parent to the alienated parent, and a prohibition of all contact by the other parent until the “brainwashing” has been sufficiently overcome.<sup>10</sup>

Gardner acknowledges that some parents who are in fact guilty of bad behaviors and deserving of the treatment they receive from the other parent and the child, have used PAS to gain custody, thereby placing the child in the hands of an abuser.<sup>11</sup> Regardless, many opponents claim it victimizes an innocent parent who is legitimately looking out for the child's well-being.<sup>12</sup>

## Parental Alienation and the Court System

Whether parental alienation becomes an issue often depends on whether a particular custody evaluator or therapist believes in the theory or not. Even if the judge decides that testimony regarding alienation is admissible, the ultimate decision of how to deal with an alienated child is unclear.

Gardner heavily cautions against allowing a child to remain under the influence of the alienating parent, even to the point of changing custody and limiting all contact between the child and the alienating parent. The application of such a policy may lead to trauma for all involved, and Gardner has not been consistent in his application. Although he states that he only recommends transfer of custody for severe cases,

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# The Parental Alienation Phenomenon

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he has recommended it in others he deemed to be mild or moderate.<sup>13</sup>

Kelly and Johnston also believe in active court intervention, though not necessarily by modifying custody or limiting contact between alienating parent and child. They advocate a multilevel system of judges, mediators and therapists working together to ensure the family receives treatment for the factors that have brought about the alienated child.<sup>14</sup>

Weighing in favor of court intervention is the fact that an alienating parent can quite successfully prevent contact between the other parent and the children if he or she is determined enough. Should judges reward a parent who violates court orders with impunity? No court wishes to see its authority flaunted by a litigant who believes their status as a parent is immune from judicial powers. Inconsistent application of the law can only lead to further litigation and frustration on the part of parents.

This also raises the question of whether a child should be forced to visit a parent regardless of his or her wishes. On one hand, children are often forced to do things they do not like – going to school, cleaning their room – so why defer to their wishes in an area where they may not be cognitively and emotionally mature enough to form a reasonable opinion?

On the other hand, many PAS opponents claim that bad behaviors resolve themselves quickly, often before the child reaches 18.<sup>15</sup> And if the parent is engaging in brainwashing, the child will eventually realize this and form his or her own opinions.<sup>16</sup>

One critic notes that dealing with parental alienation should be outside the province of the court. If parental alienation is classified as bad parenting, should courts really be intervening to correct it or create good parenting skills?<sup>17</sup> Gardner counters by stating that parental alienation is a form of emotional abuse, an exploitation by parent of child, and courts are the only institution with the authority to remedy this and ‘save’ the child.<sup>18</sup>

## Conclusion

It is a fact that separated or divorcing parents sometimes speak harsh negatives about the other parent in front of the children. Some parents attempt to impair the other parent’s contact with the children through refusal of visitation or failing to pass along information about school events or even therapies the children may be undergoing. Even Gardner’s most harsh critics do not seem to contest the fact that some children favor one parent over another and behave in hostile, if not irrational, ways towards that other parent.<sup>19</sup> The extent to which this can be called unnatural and blamed on the loved parent is hotly contested, particularly when one parent raises the issue in court.

Inevitably, the consequences of parental alienation come squarely to rest at the door of Circuit and Family courts. Judges are forced to decide custody and visitation issues and make special orders based on the evidence presented to them. Despite being around for nearly two decades, parental alienation is still a relatively new idea in Family Court. As more parents and family professionals discover the large volume of material on the subject, its admissibility as a theory will continue to be litigated in U.S. courts and all over the world.

## Does the legal system exacerbate parental conflict and alienation?

- Gardner blames courts for moving toward the joint custody model, which increases the number of mothers who are afraid of losing their children (hence more alienation).
- He also blames the legal system and its adversarial players – attorneys and guardians *ad litem* – for vigorously defending their clients’ positions well beyond the best interest of the children.
- Gardner’s critics sharply criticize courts that have accepted the PAS theory without performing the necessary inquiries into its legitimacy, and therapists and attorneys who have created a money-making industry based on junk science.

## Why would a child resist visitation?

- Normal developmental reasons (such as normal separation anxieties in very young children)
  - Fear or inability to cope with a high-conflict divorce
  - Resistance to a parent’s parenting style
  - The child may fear for the other emotionally fragile parent
  - Resentment at the remarriage of a parent or resistance to a stepparent
- Source, Kelly & Johnston, at 251.

## What can courts do?

- Force children to visit with an estranged parent against their will?
- Hold alienating parents in contempt, impose monetary fines, award extra visitation to the alienated parent? Even threaten jail time?
- Modify custody and visitation arrangements?
- Nothing at all; allow the issues to resolve themselves?

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Gardner, Richard A. “The Parental Alienation Syndrome,” 2<sup>nd</sup>ed. Creative Therapeutics, Inc. 1992, p. 78.

<sup>2</sup> Gardner, Introduction, xx.

<sup>3</sup> Id. at 76-77.

<sup>4</sup> Joan B. Kelly and Janet R. Johnston, “Alienated Children in Divorce: The Alienated Child: A Reformulation of Parental Alienation Syndrome,” 29 Fam Ct. Rev. 249, 250 (2001).

<sup>5</sup> Sheila Heim et.al., “California NOW Family Court Review,” available at [www.canow.org](http://www.canow.org).

<sup>6</sup> Kelly & Johnston, supra note iv, at 249-250.

<sup>7</sup> Id. at 251.

<sup>8</sup> Richard Warshak, “Bringing Sense to Parental Alienation: A Look at the Disputes and the Evidence,” 37 Fam.L.Q. 273, 285 (2003); Carol S. Bruch, “Parental Alienation Syndrome and Parental Alienation: Getting it Wrong in Child Custody Cases,” 35 Fam.L.Q. 527, 534-536 (2001).

<sup>9</sup> Richard Gardner, supra note i, at xxi. See also Gardner’s website, [www.rgardner.com](http://www.rgardner.com), which lists extensive resources regarding parental alienation syndrome.

<sup>10</sup> Richard A. Gardner, “Should Courts Order PAS Children to Visit/Reside with the Alienated Parent? A Follow-up Study,” Amer. Journal of Forensic Psychiatry, 2001, 19(3): 61-106.

<sup>11</sup> Richard Gardner, supra note x, at xxi.

<sup>12</sup> Bruch, supra note ix, at 532.

<sup>13</sup> Gardner, supra note xi, 10-36.

<sup>14</sup> Kelly and Johnston, supra note vi.

<sup>15</sup> Judith S. Wallerstein, Julie M. Lewis, and Sandra Blakeslee, “The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce-A 25 Year Landmark Study,” 115-116 (2000).

<sup>16</sup> Id.

<sup>17</sup> Bruch at 546.

<sup>18</sup> Gardner, supra note i, at 376-383.

<sup>19</sup> Bruch at 530.





## Time Ran Out on Family Law Legislation

*By Scott Furkin, General Counsel  
Administrative Office of the Courts*

Time ran out in the 2004 General Assembly before several bills impacting family law could gain committee approval and be called up for a floor vote, necessary first steps toward becoming law:

**HB 23.** Provide for appointment of attorneys for indigent parents in termination of parental rights appeals.

**HB 75.** Change amounts in child support guidelines table.

**HB 138.** Authorize county attorneys to represent domestic violence petitioners.

**HB 606.** Provide civil remedies/criminal penalties for parental interference with court-ordered visitation.

This bill won committee approval and passed the Senate, but did not get a committee hearing in the House of Representatives:

**SB 38.** Provide for court recognition of foreign adoption judgment.

The following bills, although approved by committee and passed by the House of Representatives, stalled in the Senate:

**HB 76.** Permit adjustment of child support based on shared parenting.

**HB 91.** Adopt Uniform Child Custody & Enforcement Act.

**HB 269.** For child support purposes, eliminate automatic emancipation at age 19 for mentally ill, retarded and disabled persons.

One much-publicized bill, having been approved in committee and passed by the Senate, was defeated after a fiery debate in the House of Representatives:



## Family Court in the News

Is your Family Court making news? If you think your Family Court is newsworthy, contact Kelly Stephens at 800-928-2350 to request a news release. The AOC's Office of Public Information is responsible for preparing and distributing news releases for Family Court. If your news merits attention, Kelly will coordinate a news release with the AOC's public information officer who will distribute it to the appropriate media outlets.

**SB 245.** Amend the Kentucky Constitution to limit marriage to one man/one woman.

## Judge Waterman fills vacancy in Jefferson Family Court

*By Jim Birmingham, Administrator  
Jefferson County Family Court*

Gov. Ernie Fletcher has appointed Louis I. Waterman to fill the vacancy created in Jefferson Family Court, Division Four. Judge Waterman brings 17 years of domestic relations practice and extensive community and civic involvement to Family Court.

Judge Waterman earned his law degree from the University of Louisville School of Law in 1986. While in law school, he served as law clerk to Judge William McAnulty. Judge Waterman is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is

certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy in Family Law.

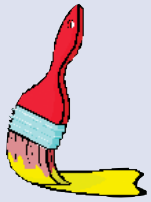
He has practiced exclusively in the area of domestic relations for more than 12 years. In addition to representing private clients, he has served as a volunteer lawyer for the Legal Aid Society and the Legal Aid Society HIV/AIDS Project, representing clients who could not afford representation for family law matters.

Judge Waterman's community and civic involvement includes serving on the board of directors for Jewish Hospital Healthcare Services, the Kentucky Derby Festival, the Louisville Zoo and the Louisville Bar Association. He is a graduate of Leadership Louisville

and was a member of the Bingham Fellows on two occasions.

Judge Waterman has been honored with the Louisville Bar Association's Outstanding Committee of the Year award for his work as chair of the Public Service Committee, the Louisville Bar Distinguished Service Award, Business First's 40 Under 40 and the 2003 Hall of Fame William H. Sheppard's Excellence in Community Leadership Award, and was named an Outstanding Volunteer Lawyer in 2000 by the Legal Aid Society.

Judge Waterman and his wife, Mary E. Barrazotto, have two children, Mark Henry and Katherine Elizabeth. Jefferson County Court welcomes Judge Waterman.



# Children's Art Contest

## "Something I Think Kids Should Know About Divorce"



The Department of Family Court and the Families In Transition (FIT) Divorce Education Program are sponsoring an art contest for children ages 8-16. The FIT Program is currently updating and redesigning its workbooks for children, adolescents and adults, and needs fresh illustrations.

Winners will have their artwork featured on the cover as well as in the workbooks. The theme of the contest is "Something I Think Kids Should Know About Divorce." Artwork needs to be 8.5" x 11". Select entries will be displayed in the Department of Family Court at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort. Contest deadline is **July 30, 2004**.



To enter, put the artist's name, age, address and phone number on the back of the artwork and send it to: Nancy Hulett, Department of Family Court, 100 Millcreek Park, Frankfort, Ky. 40601. For more information, contact Nancy at 800-928-2350 or [nancyhulett@mail.aoc.state.ky.us](mailto:nancyhulett@mail.aoc.state.ky.us).

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